

The Past and the Present.
Truth is not the only thing which being "enslaved to earth," will rise again. There is in error a resurrection-power. Extinguish it to-day, and it reappears to-morrow. Despatch it in any place, and it rises in another. The law which waited the moral energies of the last century, may be the grand obstacle in the way of Truth in this century.

After a struggle of nearly a century, during which the slave-trade and slavery were upheld by a peculiar combination of interests, and advocated by logicians and orators, Great Britain at last succeeded in sweeping away every vestige of those evils from her possessions.

It is painful to reflect that this country, which boasts of its superior devotion to Human Rights, and claims pre-eminence in self-government, stands at this moment on the threshold of a battle, which England has already fought and won.

The miserable sophisms the republicanism of America now puts forth in support of Slavery, were exploded by the "King-riding people" of Britain, as we compassionately style them, half a century ago. Absurdities which would now excite the derision of the British public, are not deemed unworthy of serious argumentation in this country. We are as much behind our mother country in respect for Natural, Personal Rights, as she is behind us in her social and political institutions.

These remarks have been suggested by a chapter in Bell's *History of Slavery*, in which the author has occasion to allude to the efforts of this distinguished statesman against the slave-trade. He remarks that Slavery, at that time, was looked upon as a right—one of the rights of property. The country gentlemen were in mass against any interference with it. The commercial interest fought for it as if it were a balance of exchanges in perpetuity.

The lawyers—defended it as they would an entail. The chiefs of the army and navy stood up for it as "they would for the honor of the British flag." All the hoary-headed monopolies headed by the overbearing West India interest, rushed to its defence, for to prosecute a monopoly was to open the way for the overthrow of others. And, says Mr. Bell, where were many strictly Christian people, who, like ants, made it a solemn law to themselves to follow in the track over which the burden of their faith was first carried, and who, holding the same belief that was held before the Flood, were convinced and not to be put out of their conviction by any human means, that the slave-trade (or slavery, for it was all one to them), was an old Scriptural institution, and these faithful people would as soon have thought of knocking down the parish church, or putting the Archangel of Gaster to sleep on short commons, or any other imaginable sacrifice, as of preventing a free trade in the blood, bones and muscles of the black-amoors, as some of the funny members of the opposition would call them.

Pro-Slavery Americans now declaim about the "rights of property." So pro-slavery English did then; but Englishmen in these days have arrived at the conclusion that there is one right prior to all the so-called rights of property—the right of a man to himself. The American people have not yet generally reached this knowledge.

When has the time ever been, that a popular effort did not take refuge in the *Constitution of the State*? Slavery, "Democracy" contends, is guaranteed by our Constitution, and how this great ark of safety could exist without it, is incomprehensible to them.

So, Lord, in the great struggle in Britain, denied that slavery was incompatible with the British Constitution—in fact, he seemed to think the Constitution could not get on without it.

Chancellor Harper of South Carolina, who lately advocated Slavery because it was a wonderful civilization, must be a descendant of the brave General Gascoigne, who declared in the British Parliament, that "so far from abolishing the slave-trade, it ought to be increased; and that if slavery had never before existed in the world, it ought to be begun now."

Mr. Calhoun has descended upon the beneficial effects of slavery in rescuing the negroes from a worse fate. So thought the Legislature of Jamaica, which announced that, as the negroes were all convicts or prisoners of war at home, if not bought as slaves, they must be put to death. And yet that very Legislature had just passed an act to prevent the importation of slaves over twenty-five years of age!

One gentleman, in his name immortal, says Mr. Bell—Sir W. Yarrow, defends slavery on the ground that it had produced some of the greatest men among the ancients.

Of like mind is the famous Mr. Pickens of South Carolina, who, condescendingly, in behalf of that remarkable State, ratified the nomination of Mr. Polk.

Mr. Wilberforce has stated that there were parts of Africa, where civilization had made such progress, that he looked to see not uncommon among the people—"Books!" exclaimed Mr. Dent, in the utmost alarm; "books! The black-amoors have books! And this given to us as a reason why they should not be exported as slaves! What produced the French Revolution? Books! He hoped what the House did, it would not be induced to stop the slave-trade, in order that the inhabitants of Africa might stay at home to be corrupted by books!"

Our staid old neighbors seem to be profoundly impressed with the philosophy of Mr. Dent. They have taken great care to preserve the morals of their slaves against the corrupting influence of books.

In fact, among all the arguments used by the defenders and apologists of slavery in this country now, there is not one that was not used, and has not been refuted forever, in Great Britain. We beg pardon—there is one, the only argument original in this country.

The genius of an Englishman was not put to its conception. It was reserved for the discovery of the illustrious George McDuffie, the name gentleman whose military genius has suggested the elongation of the American bayonet, so as to give the American soldier the privilege of sticking before being stuck.

That famous argument is—that Slavery is the chief corner stone of Republican Institutions.

Arrival of the Hibernian.
The steamer Hibernia arrived at Boston on the 23d, bringing advices from Liverpool to the 19th and from London to the 18th ult.

The most important intelligence is that the Oregon Treaty has been duly ratified and signed, by Mr. McLane, and the British Secretary of State.

Lord Aberdeen in a speech in the House of Lords, congratulated the country on the peaceful settlement of the difficulty.

Ireland continues the scene of riots and bloodshed.

The new Ministry has got fairly to work, and in every quarter a disposition is apparent to give it a fair trial. Lord John Russell it is stated, has displayed judgment as well as impartiality in the composition of his Government, which is supposed to be stronger as a whole, than the one it supplanted.

The Cobden testimonial is filling up, and it is proposed to erect a monument to Peel, the expenses to be defrayed by penny subscription.

The measures of the new Ministry had led to some discussion and opposition in Parliament. Mr. Disraeli wished to hear from the Prime Minister a distinct view of his views on the leading topics of the day.

Lord John Russell defined this categorical analysis, but while declining so, said sufficient to the minds of his future career as Minister of the State.

ter to the principles of free-trade, which was his unswerving attitude. Justice to free-trade was literally carried out. But with respect to the Establishment of Church of that country, the new Premier evidently thinks it unimportant to meddle with. He entered into an explanation respecting his celebrated finality speech, and showed that he had been misinterpreted—that he never said he believed finally in the possibility of a free-trade.

This speech has not given satisfaction to the most extreme politicians. One of that party, Mr. Wadley, plainly intimated that he could see no difference between the new Ministry and the fact is, as a member from Finsbury stated it. His views on the sugar duties, on the Monday after the steamer left, would test the strength of the Ministry.

Nothing of moment from the Continent. Mr. Donaldson our Charge to Russia had arrived at Berlin July 10th.

The markets on the whole are not discouraging. On the 17th there was a fair demand for good fresh wheat, chiefly American. United States and Canadian flour continued to be taken freely, and superior brands commanded extensive sales. The finer descriptions commanded the extreme rates of the current quotations. Indian corn and meal have receded in value.

United States sweet Flour, No. 3640 to 3645—United States Red Wheat 64 to 74d. Commercial business on the whole is in a more active and settled state than it has been for some time.

The manufacturing districts are busy and confidence prevails. The accounts from Lancashire and Yorkshire, show that the new commercial policy has given a stimulus to trade, although had it been adopted earlier, the result would have been better.

The season of the year, the most favorable could desire. The crops are in splendid condition, and one of the earliest and most productive harvests on record is nearly ripe for the sickle.

The American provision market as regards beef has been in a quiet state with drooping prices. The inferior sorts have given way to the better. The better kinds have been tolerably firm.

The demand for pork has been limited, and the prices have declined a trifle. The market is bare of fine cheese, which could secure a good return. Inferior qualities go off heavily at lower rates.

The Corn trade is in a lethargic state, owing to the large quantities which were released from bond, a fortnight ago at the low duty, and who has more or less affected the market since the prospects of the impending harvest to have had a tendency to send prices down, and depress speculation.

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The continental markets have been rather firmer, in consequence of the passage of our corn bill. That measure must in the nature of things have a tendency to produce a regular and of course, a regular, and tolerably uniform demand.

The Advertiser and the Black Laws.
Now, the Supreme Court of this State have construed the phrase *blacks and mulattoes*, literally, and not figuratively. It is held that a white man who was between a mulatto and a white man, as to such there is no disability—they may vote, swear, hold office, and do all that a white man can do, so long as he is not a mulatto, and all disability upon such as are half black and more, and let it in them, too, upon the same footing of equality.

The Supreme Court is very discriminative. What does it make of those between a mulatto and a black? They certainly are neither blacks, nor mulattoes—more than their brethren between mulattoes and whites? What does the Advertiser think of such cases? How should they be decided? Has it ever brought its colorists to bear upon them?

Here is a mulatto. What a lusus naturæ! cries the Advertiser. True, he comes up to the current definition of a mulatto, and is a "fifth-rate negro"—but O, horrible! did I ever see such a biped! He is a mulatto, just exactly half white, half black! Shall such a man, who is neither black, nor white, nor mulatto, vote? No. Shall he swear? No. Shall he hold office? No. But, what's this? An other featherless biped—not exactly half white and half black—but nine-sixteenths white, and seven-sixteenths black. Ah—he will pass as a man. The mere fraction in the white scale, converts the monster into a man. He may vote, swear, learn, sit in the same pew with a white man. In a word, he has the right to live, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What a keen analyst is Democracy! How acute its perceptions! How refined its tastes! How exquisite its philosophy!

Cincinnati Historical Society.
We learn that this institution is laboring with much industry in the good work of collecting printed and manuscript accounts of early adventure, discovery, and settlement, in the West and the Mississippi Valley. Several hundred published volumes have been collected within the past year, many of them very rare and of difficult obtainment, and the indefatigable Mr. Randall, is "on the track" after good ones.

The Society are already rich in historical relics, and in the course of a few years will be particularly so. It is in contemplation, so soon as the state of the finances of the association will permit, to publish a regular series of works on Western History, and a number of pens are now busy both in compilation and original composition. Three manuscripts, in fact, which it is desirable to publish for the Society as its permanent library, are on the task.

Let *Reminiscences of the Missouri Valley* by James McKim, of Butler county, Mo. It has been for several years collecting facts in relation to the early history of this interesting region, which he is now arranging and embodying, with the intention of communicating them to the Society at an early day.

2d. *A History of the Settlements in the Ohio Company's Purchase*, composed chiefly by *Washington County*, by S. P. Huxford, of Marietta, D. C. It is a gentleman of enlarged intelligence and enthusiastically devoted to the collection of every thing relating to the early history of Ohio, has been engaged upon this work for five years, and is now nearly ready to communicate to the Society the first volume of it, comprising some 300 pages. This volume embraces accounts of the early discoveries of the French in the North American Valley, under La Salle; the first explorations of the English on the waters of the Ohio, by Major (later General) Rogers; the first settlement of the land at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers; Dunmore's Campaign, and landing at the Mouth of the Ohio; the Hocking; Transactions with the Indian tribes during the Revolution, at Fort Pitt, under Col. George Morgan, (taken from his manuscripts, and never yet published); the ceding of the Territory north-west of the Ohio by Connecticut and Virginia, with original records of Indian depredations down to the period of the landing of the Ohio Company's agents at Marietta, in April, 1788; a Journal of Genl. Boell, who was a Sergeant in Harmer's Regiment, detailing events at Fort Mifflin, Fort Harmer, and Fort Vincennes, from the year 1786 to 1788; a history of the Ohio Company, and their transactions down to 1796, copied from the Original Journal, with a detailed account of the early settlement of Marietta, Beloe and Waterford; the whole closing with the termination of the Territory Government, before the cession of the Ohio Company's lands to the United States.

3d. *Monographs Relating to the Indians of Ohio Valley*, collected by F. R. Rouse, of Ross county. Mr. Renick is one of the most intelligent of the remaining Pioneers. He thinks that great injury has been done the Indian Tribes of this region, by the official and other

documents that have been published concerning them, and is desirous that the *truth of the matter* should be substituted for the *error*. These manuscripts, (partly written by himself, and partly by an elder relative now deceased,) will doubtless be very acceptable to the Society, and ought to form one of its earliest publications.

Mr. Renick, we are pleased to learn, is preparing, and will soon publish, a *Historical Key of an interesting portion of the Southern Valley*, with some account of the early times of the region.

The project of erecting a building for the use of the Cincinnati Historical Society, has for some time been under consideration by the members. And a recent visit to the rooms at present occupied by the Society, has convinced us that this is a measure which ought to be taken, and cannot be many long, deferred.

From want of room, many of the books are necessarily stored away in drawers, boxes and corners, where they can be referred to only with great trouble; and for maps, engravings, manuscripts, and specimens of natural history, the Society is entirely without any place of display, and has hardly one of deposit. A building for its use is therefore imperiously demanded, and we hope one may soon be erected.

The active members, though very few of them have much pecuniary ability, offer to subscribe liberally, and some of the officers propose to give \$200 to \$300 each, towards the erection of a Historical Hall, so soon as a suitable lot for such a building shall have been obtained.

Who is there, now, among our owners of real estate, with good sense, patriotism and liberality, enough to step forward and donate such a lot, in whole or in part? A name could not be more honorably associated in our city, than with such an act. No one can deny the importance of such an institution as this Historical Society; and we know enough of its leading members, to be confident that they will do it.

What has been done during the past year, is, of itself, indeed, enough to show that the right kind of men have hold of its direction. Their time, means and opportunities considered, they have achieved wonders. But just now, we understand, their exertions are paralyzed, through the want of a building in which to deposit, arrange and display, the results of their labors. This ought to be remedied, and we trust will be speedily.

The following are the names of the officers of the Society; and, without consultation with any of them, but with a full knowledge of the state in which they are now placed, we take the liberty of suggesting, that either of them would most gladly listen to any proposition of assistance in the obtaining of a building for the safe and permanent deposit of their valuable collections.

President—D. K. ESTE.
Vice-Presidents—W. D. GALLAGHER.
Cor. Secretaries—C. W. WHITNEY.
Sec. Secretaries—E. P. NORTON.
Treasurer—HARVEY HALL.
Librarian—A. RANDALL.

Indiana Election.
It is supposed that Whitcomb is re-elected in Indiana by a small majority. The Whigs have gained some in the Legislature, and may have a majority in the House, while the Democrats will hold the Senate.

From Havana.
Dates have been received at New Orleans from Havana to the 21st ult. The Delta says: "Don Ignacio Basadre, the Mexican General, who has been at Havana with Santa Anna and Alamo, left on the 10th ult., on board of the Spanish frigate *Emilio*, for Sinaloa, Yucatan, from whence he proposed proceeding to Toluca. A correspondent informs us that it is generally believed that Gen. Basadre has some business of importance to attend to on behalf of Santa Anna."

We find nothing else of interest.

The River and Harbor Bill—The Veto—Double-Dealing Again.
Weak the attention of our readers to a portion of the debate published on our 3d page on the veto by the President of the River and Harbor Bill. This act has created much excitement in the Democratic ranks. The Southern Democracy, the ruling section of the Party, is exultant. The Western Democracy, the subject section, is indignant. Mr. Wilmont said that Mr. Polk had proved himself "a man of nerve"—this was a Jackson vote in its tone and character. Mr. Holmes was in raptures. The Democracy "died gloriously." They have a word, he has the right to live, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What a keen analyst is Democracy! How acute its perceptions! How refined its tastes! How exquisite its philosophy!

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or lake improvement have been nothing more than a small scale, little more than two and a half millions of dollars having been expended since the year 1824, a period of 29 years—a sum not much larger than that voted by this Congress for the payment of Louisiana volunteers called into service by the unauthorized requisition of General Gaines, and who merely put out their uniforms to put it off again.

The River and Harbor bill was voted last year; and the sum total of the appropriation made for the improvement of a great highway on which is annually embarked a commerce worth \$100,000,000 was precisely \$15,000.

Having the whole subject now before us, let us see what the course of Mr. Polk has been in relation to it.

In his annual message to Congress, last December, he said—

"I refer you to the accompanying report of the Secretary of War, for information respecting the present condition of the army, and its operations during the past year; the state of our harbors, rivers, and canals, and the various public works within our limits or upon our borders. I invite your attention to the suggestions contained in the report, in relation to these prominent objects of national interest."

Among these prominent objects, "the improvement of the public works," and the suggestions of the Secretary of War respecting this matter, are commended to the attention of Congress.

What then are these public works? We shall answer to-morrow, and continue the subject.

The River and Harbor Bill—The Veto—Double-Dealing.
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Exchange, Exchange of Pay-
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